

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7064

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SUBJ: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY LINK-UPS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND
SINGAPORE, AND MALAYSIA AND THAILAND

1. ON JULY 27 MALAYSIA SIGNED TWO BILATERAL ENERGY
EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS WITH SINGAPOR AND THAILAND ENABLING
ENERGY AUTHORITIES IN THE THREE COUNTRIES TO SUPPLEMENT
AND COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER'S ELECTRICITY NEEDS. THE
AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BETWEEN THE NATIONAL
ELECTRICITY BOARD OF MALAYSIA (NEB) AND PUBLIC
UTILITIES BOARD OF SINGAPORE (PUB) AND BETWEEN NEB AND
THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (EGAT).

2. IN THE CASE OF THE AGREEMENT WITH SINGAPORE, THE
NEB WILL IMMEDIATELY BENEFIT FROM EXCESS CAPACITY OF
ITS SINAPORE COUNTERPART. PUB WILL SUPPLY POWER TO
JOHORE BAHRU, UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF A NUMBER OF NEB'S
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ARE IN HAND. THESE PROJECTS
INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF A 25 MW GAS TURBINE
AT THE SULTAN ISMAIL POWER STATION COSTING
US\$4.3 MILLION AND WICH IS SCEHEDULED FOR
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COMPLETION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR; THE NEW
132 KV REINFORCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GRID BETWEEN
MALACCA AND JOHORE BAHRU AND THE COMPLETION
OF THE NEW THERMAL POWER STATION AT PASIR
GUDANG COSTING US\$51.1 MILLION WHICH IS
SCHEDULED TO COME ON STREAM IN 1981. THE
LAUNCHING OF THE SUPPLY PROJECT BETWEEN

SINGAPORE'S WOODLANDS SUBSTATION AND THE CUSTOMS COMPLEX SUBSTATION IN JOHORE BAHRU COSTING ABOUT US\$430,000 IS THE FIRST STEP LEADING TO THE FULL INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN POWER SYSTEMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE LINK, CONSISTING OF TWO 22 KV CABLES WITH A CAPACITY OF 10 MW EACH, WAS FIRST SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO AND CONSTRUCTION WORK BY BOTH COUNTRIES FOR THE LINK WAS COMPLETED AFTER ONLY ONE MONTH.

3. IN THE CASE OF THE AGREEMENT WITH EGAT THE NEB WILL BE SUPPLYING POWER TO EGAT BEGINNING JUNE 1980. BUT ON THE COMPLETION OF ITS POWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN THAILAND IN 1985, EGAT WILL ALSO BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPLY POWER TO NEB, THUS EFFECTING A TWO-WAY EXCHANGE OF ENERGY FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN BUKIT KETRI ON THE MALAYSIAN SIDE AND SADAO ON THE THAI SIDE IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN JUNE 1980 AT THE COST OF US\$4.9 MILLION. IT WILL CONSIST OF 14 MILES OF 132 KV TRANSMISSION LINE WHICH WILL BE STEPPED DOWN TO 115 KV AT SADAO SUBSTATION TO MERGE WITH THE THAI SYSTEM. UNDER THE AGREEMENT EACH POWER SUPPLY AUTHORITY WILL BEAR THE COST OF INSTALLATION WITHIN ITS OWN

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TERRITORY (US\$4.3 MILLION FOR THAILAND AND US\$0.64 MILLION FOR MALAYSIA), AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE RESPECTIVE SECTION OF THE INTERCONNECTION.

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